

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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SUBJECT: UN TICKET APPROVED BY PARTY ASSEMBLY

REF: SAN JOSE A-183

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE PARTIDO UNIFICACION NACIONAL (UN) HELD ITS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 30 IN SAN JOSE TO APPROVE THE LEADERSHIP'S SELECTION OF THE PARTY'S 1974 SLATE. THE APPROVED SLATE REVEALED NO SURPRISES, ALTHOUGH THE CHOICE FOR THE 1ST VICE-PRESIDENTIAL SLOT WENT TO A TREJOS ESCALANTE CANDIDATE AND NOT THE CANDIDATE WHO HAD BEEN PUSHED BY THE UN PROFESSIONALS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE UN PARTY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DURING AN ALL-DAY SESSION SEPTEMBER 30, CAPPED BY A SPEECH BY UN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FERNANDO TREJOS ESCALANTE, RUBBERSTAMPED THE PARTY LEADERSHIP'S CHOICES FOR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL AND DEPUTY CANDIDATES FOR THE 1974 ELECTION. TOP UN PARTY OFFICIALS BELIEVING, PROBABLY OPTIMISTICALLY, THEY WILL DO AS WELL IN THE 1974 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AS THEY DID IN 1970 WHEN THEY ELECTED 22 DEPUTIES, HAVE NATURALLY PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE ELECTABLE SLOTS ON THE RESPECTIVE PROVINCIAL TICKETS. THE TWO LARGELY HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

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DESIGNATED ARE LIC. JORGE BORBON CASTRO AND

LYR. LONGINO SOTO PACHECO AS FIRST AND SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS, RESPECTIVELY. JORGE BORBON CASTRO IS AN IMPORTANT UN FINANCIAL SUPPORTER AND CLOSE TO THE YOUNG CAPITALISTS BACKING TREJOS ESCALANTE. PARTY PROFESSIONALS HAD UNDERTAKEN A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN TO NOMINATE DR. ALVARO AGUILAR PERALTA, A PRESTIGIOUS PHYSICIAN AND LONGTIME CALDERONISTA STALWARD, BUT TREJOS ESCALANTE'S

PEOPLE ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY THAT THREE PHYSICIANS HEADING THE TICKET MIGHT CAUSE A NEGATIVE POPULAR REACTION. HOWEVER, JORGE BORBON CASTRO'S POTENTIAL FOR LOOSENING PURSESTRINGS OF STILL RELUCTANT OLIGARCHS WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY BANKROLLED OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WAS OBVIOUSLY THE MAJOR FACTOR IN HIS SELECTION. DR LONGINO SOTO PACHECO, PRESIDENT OF THE COSTA RICA PARTIDO REPUBLICANO (PR), SLIPPED FROM

THE ANTICIPATED NO. 1 SLOT TO THE SECOND POSITION, BUT RETAINED HIS VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY AGREED TO IN MAY 1972 IN EXCHANGE FOR PR SUPPORT FOR THE UN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE (THE PR WILL SUPPORT THE UN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, BUT RUN ITS OWN SEPARATE DEPUTY TICKET).

3. FOR ITS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES, THE UN TAPPED SIGURD KOBERG, DR. TREJOS ESCALANTE'S KEY FINANCIAL ADVISOR, TO HEAD THE PARTY'S DEPUTY SLATE FROM THE SAN JOSE PROVINCE, WHILE CALDERONISTA STALWART GUILLERMO VILLALOBOS ARCE WAS FORCED TO SETTLE FOR THE SECOND SLOT ON THE SAN JOSE SLATE. NATIONWIDE, HOWEVER, ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF THE UN DEPUTY CANDIDATES NOMINATED ARE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE PROGRESSIVE CALDERONISTA WING OF THE PARTY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE UN STRATEGISTS SAY THEY EXPECT TO IMPROVE ON THEIR 1970 PERFORMANCE OF 22 DEPUTIES, IT IS MORE LIKELY THE PARTY MAY LOSE A FEW SEATS BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF MINOR PARTIES COMPETING FOR DEPUTY PLACES. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE INN DEPUTY CONTINGENT REACHED 20 AND MOST OF THESE IN ANY CASE WILL REPRESENT NOT DR. TREJOS ESCALANTE BUT THE MORE TRADITIONAL CALDERONISTA (PROGRESSIVE) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WING OF THE PARTY LED BY THE NO. 2 DEPUTY CANDIDATE FROM SAN JOSE GUILLERMO VILLALOBOS ARCE AND HIS MENTOR AND PARTY CHIEFTAIN FRANCISCO "PACO" CALDERON GUARDIA.

5. ANOTHER LITTLE NOTED BUT SIGNIFICANT DECISION TAKEN AT THE PARTY'S ASSEMBLY WAS TO ELECT FOR FOUR YEARS THE UN PARTY'S

POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF "PACO" CALDERON,
PRESIDENT; GUILLERMO JIMENEZ RAMIREZ, SECRETARY;
FERNANDO ALTMAN ORTIZ, TREASURER; AND VILLALOBOS ARCE,
MEMBER. THUS, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY REMAINS IN
TRADITIONAL PROGRESSIVE HANDS, DESPITE EFFORTS BY
CONSERVATIVE, BUSINESS-ORIENTED FORCES TO REMOVE IT AND
TO CHANGE THE PARTY'S CALDERONISTA COMPLEXION.
THE PARTY'S FUTURE PHILOSOPHICAL COMPLEXION, WHILE NECESSARILY
MAKING ALLOWANCES FOR THE PRESENCE OF TREJOS ESCALANTE
AND HIS SUPPORTERS, WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO FOSTER ANY SHARP
CHANGES THAT WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY ALTER THE HISTORIC STYLE
OF THE UN PARTY.
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